

## **Providing for a Central Resource Center for the Nursing Workforce**

On May 4, 2005, Governor Christine Gregoire signed Senate Bill 5599, Providing for a Central Resource Center for the Nursing Workforce. This legislation is effective as of July 24, 2005. The legislation enacts a \$5 surcharge on nurses' licensing fees to provide financial support for a Center for Nursing for Washington State. The surcharge will be in the form of a \$5 increase on the nursing licensing fees for all registered nurses and licensed practical nurses beginning in November, 2005. This will include initial licensure, renewals and reactivations. Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners will pay the \$5 fee on their registered nurses licenses.

The Senate bill can be viewed by visiting <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo>. Enter 5599 in the bill number box to view the full language of the bill. The legislation states that the mission of the Center for Nursing will be "to contribute to the health and wellness of Washington state residents by ensuring that there is an adequate nursing workforce to meet the current and future health care needs of the citizens of the state of Washington." The Center for Nursing will provide this service by completing seven objectives:

1. Maintain information on the current and projected supply and demand of nurses;
2. Monitor and validate trends in the applicant pool for programs in nursing;
3. Facilitate partnerships between the nursing community and other health care providers, licensing authority, business and industry, consumers, legislators, and educators;
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education;
5. Provide consultation, technical assistance, data and information related to Washington state and national nursing resources;
6. Promote strategies to enhance patient safety and quality patient care; and,
7. Educate the public including students in grades K-12 about opportunities and careers in nursing.

The Department of Health will collect the fees and work with the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to award grants to a Central Nursing Resource Center. An annual report to the Department of Health will be completed. The legislation is effective through June 30, 2013. A report is due to the legislature in June 2012 on completion of the objectives.

If you have questions, please contact the Department of Health, Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, at (360)236-4713.